1	2	3	4	5	6
79.	Saudi Arabia	—	—	2.31	0.21
80.	Sierra Leon	—	—	0.01	—
81.	Senegal	—	1.00	—	0.03
82.	Singapore	241.27	408.57	806.83	3833.58
83.	S. Africa	3.45	7.33	27.31	20.47
84.	S. Korea	1.55		0.94	—
85.	Spain	—	5.09	9.63	2.33
86.	Sri Lanka	7.94	6.07	7.40	1.83
87.	St. Vincent	0.05	—	—	—
88.	Sudan	—	131.55	1039.24	9.10
89.	Swaziland	0.96	—	—	—
90.	Sweden	—	4.51	4.37	—
91.	Switzerland	30.56	59.75	168.32	22.10
92.	Syria	0.93	2.40	2.64	1.83
93.	Taiwan	—	0.24	0.23	—
94.	Tajikistan	0.03	—	0.68	—
95.	Tanzania	0.18	—	—	0.70
96.	Thailand	3.63	91.91	10.71	2.77
97.	Ukraine	3.96	0.06	—	—
98.	Tunisia	—	—	5.09	—
99.	Turkey		0 38	0.41	0.10
100.	UAE	80.53	115.78	114.76	56.97
101.	Uganda	—	—	9.71	—
102.	UK	125.13	250.46	364.48	214.75
103.	USA	143.57	438.29	631.59	511.36
104.	Uruguay	2.56	24.24	7.20	93.70
105.	Uzbekistan	0.19	0.02	0.12	0.01
106.	Vantua	2.30	0.18	—	—
107.	Vietnam	0.06	0.37	3.15	2.93
108.	Zimbabwe	—	1.15	—	—
109.	Zambia	0.04	—	—	—

Loans to students for higher and vocational education

†1520. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme was launched by Government during the last year to grant loans to the students for getting higher and vocational education;

(b) the average loan given to the students annually during this scheme in the country;

(c) the rate of interest charged on the loan;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government will make some efforts to reduce the rate of interest on this loan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Education Loan Scheme was first inroduced in 2001 and was subsequently revised by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) in August 2004. The scheme provides financial support from the banking system to deserving/meritorious students for pursuing higher education both within India and abroad.

(b) As per information provided by the IBA for 26 Public Sector Banks, the total education loan disbursed by these banks during the last three years was as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Amount disbursed	Amount disbursed	Amount disbursed
2782	3321	4149

The average loan amount disbursed to students every year is not maintained by the IBA.

(c) As per extant guidelines for education loans the interest rate on loans upto Rs. 4 lakh should not exceed the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) of banks and for loans above Rs. 4 lakh it should not exceeed BPLR+1 per cent.

(d) Th interest rates on advances have been deregulated and banks are free to fix interest rates themselves with the approval of their respective Boards.

(e) Does not arise.

Listing of Government companies in stock markets

†1521. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government companies are also listed in the stock markets of the country;

(b) if so, the number of such companies listed during the years, 2005, 2006 and upto March 2007.

(c)whether it is also a fact that with the rise in the stock market, the asset value of various Government companies have also increased;

(d) if so, the details of enhanced asset value of Government companies during the aforesaid period, company-wise and year-wise; and

(e) the percentage of increase in asset value from March to November, 2007?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.